



Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Propaganda

Presented by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum

The Soviet Union Enters the War

When Adolf Hitler ordered the German occupation of Poland on September 1st, 1939, he did so with the Soviet Union, under Joseph Stalin, as his ally. The two countries had entered into a non-aggression pact with each other just a month before, in August 1939. Hitler saw their alliance crumble when Nazi Germany began its invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, with Operation

Barbarossa. Over the next four years the Soviets waged a bloody battle against the German army as it held the Eastern Front.



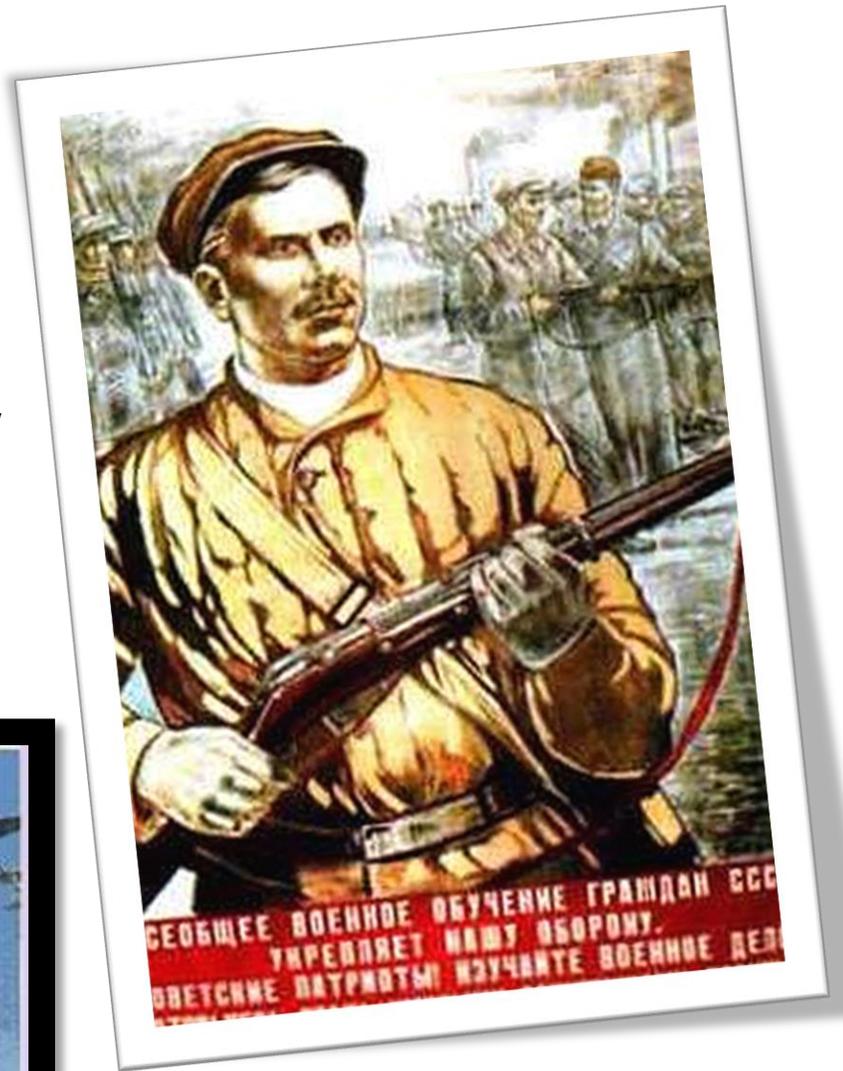
Soviet Propaganda

At the Tehran Conference in December 1943, Joseph Stalin said that World War II would be won through “British brains, American brawn, and Russian blood.” By the end of the war, it is estimated that over 8 million Soviet soldiers were killed or missing in action. Because the loss of life was so great, most Soviet-produced propaganda was aimed at recruiting more soldiers and reinforcing Russian nationalism. Many others focused on portraying Stalin as the leader of the country. The following pages have several examples of Soviet Union propaganda. Take your time to look at each and understand the message of each piece.



Caption: “Be ready to protect the USSR! Learn how to shoot accurately!”

Caption (right): “Compulsory military education strengthens our defense!”



СЕОБЩЕЕ ВОЕННОЕ ОБУЧЕНИЕ ГРАЖДАН СССР
УКРЕПЛЯЕТ НАШУ ОБОРОДУ.
СОВЕТСКИЕ ПАТРИОТЫ! ИЗУЧАЙТЕ ВОЕННОЕ ДЕЛО!

Caption (left): “Long live Red Army of workers and peasants – the true guard of the Soviet borders!”



ДА ЗДРАВСТВУЕТ РАБОЧЕ-КРЕСТЬЯНСКАЯ КРАСНАЯ АРМИЯ –
ВЕРНЫЙ СТРАЖ СОВЕТСКИХ ГРАНИЦ!



Caption (left): "For the Motherland, Honor and Freedom!"



Caption (right): "Be a Hero!"